

TIPS Steering Committee Meeting

Office of Surface Mining

Denver, Colorado

June 11-13, 2001

1999 Broadway—33rd Floor Conference Room, Suite 3340

Decisions

1. GIS Strategy—The Steering Committee agrees to the proposed strategy. ESRI Virtual Campus online courses will be managed and monitored closely. The TIPS Team will develop a process that will ensure students and their supervisors understand the time required and commitment to complete the online courses. The Team will report back to the committee the success of the online training including student completion rates at the next Steering Committee meeting.
2. KeyServer Licenses—TIPS will purchase additional KeyClient licenses only when needed. Key Clients will be monitored via monthly reports and when the number of licenses approaches the current 700 limit additional copies will be purchased.
3. Software deployment—TIPS will deploy software upgrades semi-annually, or as necessary. When major software upgrades are released the team will deploy as soon as practical. Software releases will be consolidated to the degree possible as is being done with the upcoming September 2001 deployment. (Minor upgrades will be included with software deployment where appropriate, i.e., the TIPS team will not deploy minor software upgrades every time a vendor releases an upgrade.)
4. SDPS Expansion to Mid-continent and West—The Steering Committee agrees that SDPS should be upgraded to cover the rest of the country and to make certain upgrades to the software that affects the entire country. TIPS will prepare an over-target request for Brent Wahlquist to carry-forward to OSM's Executive Council for FY 01 consideration.

5. Blast Log Evaluation Program (BLEP)—The Steering Committee decided that BLEP is now part of the TIPS core software and training program. The software will be made available as a download on the TIPS website. A course will be added to the TIPS training program. The Course and Software Manager is Ken Eltschlager.

6. Mobile computing—TIPS will continue with R&D efforts in this area. This will include purchasing mobile computing units for testing purposes as appropriate. The TIPS team will provide the results to the Steering Committee for further consideration. The team will consult with Larry Evans since WV is also in the process of determining appropriate mobile units to use in their efforts.

7. Remote Sensing—TIPS will proceed according to the strategy presented with pilot projects in KT, PA, VA and WV. This includes purchasing and evaluating the use of IKONOS images. A minimum number of ERDAS software applications will be purchased for course development and customer use. It is expected that ERADAS Advantage, Orthobase, Orthobase Pro, Stereo Analyst, and Virtual GIS

8. will be part of the TIPS core software. The TIPS team will report the results of these efforts with further recommendations at the next Steering Committee meeting.

9. e-Learning—The TIPS team will proceed with determining the best approach for developing e-learning courses. The focus will be providing training on CDs. Progress will be reported next year.

10. TIPS hotline—The TIPS team will implement an 800 number for users to call in for software and other assistance when they cannot reach numbers listed on the TIPS website.

11. The TIPS team will continue to investigate and evaluate the use of a Linux supercomputer to assist in data warehousing, web services and software.